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BISMARCK ON BOHEMIA.

The reconciliation of the German ex-chancellor with Emperor William, recalls to us certain utterances which Bismarck had made concerning our nation.

It is related of Bismarck that on the critical day of July 3, 1866, when the Austrians met the Prussians at Sadova, he was ready to blow out his brains with a revolver, in case the battle should have terminated disastrously. This great victory made Prussia an European power, securing to it a controlling voice in the affairs of Germany. King William made up his mind firmly to demand Bohemia, as the spoil of this "war of Germans with Germans"—the Hohenzollerns were always eager to capture Bohemia—and it was only owing to Bismarck's urgent entreaty that he dropped this pet scheme. Subsequently it was discovered that Napoleon III. had guaranteed, in a secret treaty, to Austria, that her northern frontier should remain untouched; of this secret treaty Bismarck was aware, and in order to avoid a collision with France he induced his royal master to abandon his favorite dream of annexing Bohemia.

It is stated authoritatively that Bismarck expressed himself about Slavonians and Bohemians in particular, as follows: "Bohemians are a progressive, enlightened and industrious people and it is impossible to ignore them; the Germans must try to make up with them." Again, "the Slavonians have many unpleasant features about them, but the race is growing and intelligent Germans should not antagonize them uselessly; the world is wide enough for both the Slavonians and Germans. Austria cannot Germanize its Slavonians. There are 14 millions of them while the Germans number only 7 millions. Hundred years ago this might have been done; but now, when the idea of nationality is so predominant it cannot be accomplished even with the assistance of absolutism." In 1879, shortly after the conclusion of the German-Austrian treaty, Bismarck made these memorable remarks to the French ambassador, Count Chaudordy, concerning Bohemia: "Shall we cede this plateau, where originate all the rivers that drain Northern Germany, this extensive fortress that seems to have been reared by God himself in the heart of Europe, shall we cede Bohemia to Russia? Sir, that would signify an eternal subjection of Germany. And again, shall we Germans annex Bohemia? Why, that would mean to us a merciless, irreconcilable conflict with Russia."

It is well, however, to bear in mind that Bismarck was always a master in the art of dissimulation and that he used language to conceal his thoughts. For instance, it has been proven beyond a doubt, that he urged Beust to punish as treason any and every expression of sympathy on the part of the Bohemians for the French, in 1870. In 1871 at Gastein Bismarck gave expression to a wish that Austria might so treat her German subjects that they should have no reason to complain and look beyond her border for protection. Hearing of the complete victory of the Bohemians to the land diet, he remarked: "We Germans fared badly this time." From Count Beust's memoires we learn that one of the most forcible arguments against Hohenwart's compromise with the Bohemians was, that Prussia would never tolerate the re-erection of a Slavonic (Bohemian) state on her border. It was only in after years, when he was anxious to conclude the German Austrian treaty that Bismarck, fearing our objection, recommended to the Austrian court to treat the Slavonians, and especially the Bohemians with less severity. At one time Bismarck went so far (again for reasons of state) as to rebuke publicly a faction of Austrian Germans who asked the fatherland to aid them in their "struggle for existence." But Bismarck's generosity had a short duration. Perceiving that the Slavonians had a well-grounded dislike to his "Austrian-German" schemes, he all of a sudden changed his mind about them and declared that "Austrian Slavonians were unreliable supporters of the German-Austrian unity;" that they sought the realization of their dreams abroad and to Bohemian Germans he gave a hint, in a parliamentary speech, that they were "not energetic enough in the defense of their rights."

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Notes.

An imposing monument to Francis Palacký, will be erected in Prague before 1898, which year will be the hundredth anniversary of the great historian. The monument fund amounts to 53,538 fl. at present, and, as private subscriptions are coming in but slowly, the municipality of Prague has decided recently to appropriate for that purpose 10,000 fl. annually.

* * *

"Matice Školská" is the name commonly given to a school fund, raised by national subscription, for the support and maintenance of Bohemian schools in mixed districts. The fund was started on December 5, 1880, and in 12 years there were built out of it two higher gymnasia, 49 common schools and 43 kindergartens—altogether, 94 schools in 62 communities. At present, in its thirteenth year, "Matice Školská" maintains one higher gymnasium, (some of its schools have since passed into the hands of the state and private societies) 36 common schools and 35 kindergartens. The total number of pupils attending these schools was, in 1893, 7,400. In schools, that were originally founded by the "Matice" but are now public, the number of pupils is 4,000. In other words, over 11,000 children, that would otherwise be lost to our nation, receive at present instruction in the Bohemian language. Within the 12 years of its existence the "Matice Školská" received in voluntary subscriptions, 2,040,705,93 florins (one florin about 40 cents) and expended 1,775,166,13 florins. Of the surplus 265,539,80 florins, 218,143,08 florins are invested in real estate, buildings, etc., and 47,396,72fl. is in cash. In addition to this, "Matice" aids, financially, 23 schools which do not belong to it. Permanent membership in this worthy and patriotic organization costs 500 florins, payable at once or in five yearly installments of 100 florins each. We believe there is no Bohemian society that needs the co-operation of every patriot so urgently as the "Matice Školská." In the United States schools are erected by the state and ample funds are reserved for their maintenance; but in Bohemia the bayonets are deemed more useful than spelling books and if the taxpayer wants to have his child brought up in his mother tongue, he must pay for it extra.

* * *

"Neue Preussische Zeitung," published in Berlin, printed a remarkable article on the affairs in Bohemia. "The Old Chekh deputies," says that paper, whose number is diminishing every day, have only one choice left, and that is, either resign their seats or join the Young Chekh faction. The last of their number, Mr. Leopold Pollack resigned his seat already, and if new elections were now held in Bohemia, for the purpose of electing deputies to the land diet and the parliament, it is almost certain that instead of the more conservative Young Chekhs, men of the most radical type would be elected. "Bohemian hard-heads" have not become proverbial without reason and a warfare against them, such as Koller had waged a quarter of a century ago, would now be more hopeless and dangerous than ever. It is well to bear in mind that Bohemians are a nation over six millions strong, and they are the peer of any people in civilization. They are intensely patriotic besides and under pressure the spirit of nationality would only be augmented. The same motive, namely the foreign situation, which induced Count Taaffe in 1879 to re-approach Bohemians, exists to this day, and if anything, it has become stronger, because of the coalition of the rest of the Austrian Slavs, which sprung up in the meantime—the coalition of the Slovenes, Croatians and Ruthenes, who are fully in sympathy with the Young Chekhs. Even among the masses of Polish people do we notice a movement favorable to Bohemians, as numerous meetings held lately in Galicia would seem to indicate. Therefore, the government of Prince Windischgrätz would do well not to yield, in the Bohemian question, to the German liberal party. Austria would suffer no inconvenience from such a course. On the contrary, this party invariably brings about complications which might result unpleasantly, when the accounts of European powers will be balanced. Prince Windischgrätz should also take warning from the serious occurences which had lately taken place on the southeastern border of the Austrian monarchy and which reminded Europe, in a very unpleasant manner, of the still unsettled Balkan question, and in view of all this he should apply to Bohemian matters a measure different from the one used by Plener and Chlumetzky."

Englishmen, like Americans, have a very imperfect knowledge of Slavonic matters. It was not until 1876-1878 that English people began to take little interest in Slavonians, owing to the political revolution of those years. Even now it is safe to say that an unlettered Bohemian knows more about England than an educated Englishman knows about Bohemia. There are educated Englishmen and Americans who still believe that there exists some "Austrian language" and that all Austrians are Germans. Among Englishmen Slavonians, and especially Bohemians, had a very warm friend in Rev. Albert H. Wratislaw, who translated into English the Queen's Court Manuscript, the Adventures of Baron Wenceslas Wratislaw of Mitrovic, Bohemian Poems, etc. Rev. Wratislaw claimed to be descended from the noble family of Vratislavs, now flourishing in Bohemia, and in dedicating the "Bohemian Poems," published in London, in 1849, to Count Valerian Krasinski, a Polish refugee, living in England, Rev. Wratislaw signed himself as "a descendant of a kindred race." After Wratislaw the most noted writer on Slavonic matters was W. R. Morfill, M. A., who lectured, in 1860, at the University of Oxford, on the ancient history and traditions of Slavonians. In 1871 W. R. S. Ralston lectured at the same institution of learning on the songs of the Russian people, in 1873 W. R. Morfill on the elementary study of the Slavonic languages, in 1874 Ralston on Russian history, in 1876 William Thomsen on the relations existing between the early Russians and Scandinavians, in 1877 Wratislaw on the original Bohemian literature of the XIV. century, in 1879 A. J. Patterson on the earliest accounts of Slavonians and the Hungarian kingdom. All these lectures were paid from a fund created for that purpose by Lord Ilchester. Sir John Bowring, a noted Slavist, published "Specimens of the Russian Poets," "Specimens of the Polish poets," "Servian Popular poetry," "Cheskian (Bohemian) Anthology." Mr. Andrew Archibald Paton published, "Servia, the youngest member of the European family," "Highlands and Island of the Adriatic," "The Bulgarian, the Turk and the German." These works were consolidated into one, later on, under the title "Researches on the Danube and the Adriatic, or contributions to the modern history of Hungary and Transylvania, Dalmatia and Croatia, Servia and Bulgaria." Sir John Gardner Wilkinson issued, in 1848, a valuable work, "Dalmatia and Montenegro, with a journey to Mostar in Hercegovina, and remarks on the Slavonic nations, the history of Dalmatia and Ragusa, etc." Of late years a number of works on Slavonic matters was published both in the United States and England.

* * *

A rabid anti-Jewish work called "Judas Iscariot, an old type in a new form," came into our hands and we notice the following passage in it: "The most obtrusive and the most demonstrative among our Jews is, without doubt, the Hungarian Jew. This pest, while at home in Hungary, is a rabid German. As soon as he steps upon American soil he is "Hungarian," and of course, an "American citizen." If he ever goes back, he is impertinent with his "American citizenship," and loses no occasion to make himself offensive." This is a mistake and in Hungary at least, the Jew is a rabid Magyar. According to statistics the number of Jews in Hungary is 600,000 and the statement is made that they form at least one fourth of the subscribers of journals and books in that kingdom. Whether the Hungarian Jew is a patriot for business consideration, is another question. With more justice the above rebuke could be applied to the Bohemian Jew, who is the most objectionable specimen, as far as patriotism is concerned, that we know of. The number of Jews in Bohemia is about 80,000 and in Moravia 40,000—altogether 120,000 Of this number hardly one third declared themselves for the Bohemian language, and those who know, claim, that only one out of every hundred is a Bohemian patriot at heart, who would not change his nationality to suit his surroundings. There are very few readers of Bohemian newspapers or buyers of books such as are found among the 600.000 Hungarian Jews. Up to 1881 there was not a single Jewish school either in Bohemia or Moravia, where the medium of instruction was Bohemian. Of German schools there were hundreds. Where the Jew is free to act, he is invariably "German." In Prague there are 30,000 German inhabitants, but of these at least three-fifths are Jews. The German "Casino" of that city has 1,600 members of whom 900 are Jews. The "Bohemian Citizen's Club" of Prague, on the contrary, shows among a membership of 1.200 only 11 Jews. In the city of Plzeñ (Pilsen) four-fifths of the Jews declared themselves for the German language, thus augmenting the number of "Germans" to 6,000 souls. In country places the Jew is not so pronounced a German because it might hurt him in his business, you know.

GERMAN COLONISTS IN BOHEMIA.

Many foreign writers entertain the erroneous idea that the Germans now settled in Bohemia, are the direct descendants of the Marcomanni, a Germanic tribe, who inhabited our fatherland before the advent of the Slavs. Bohemian history, however, knows nothing of these alleged border inhabitants and it is a well established fact that the Bohemian frontier was, from times immemorial, lined with a dense, uninhabited forest. Therefore, all the Germans now living in Bohemia must be considered as descendants of immigrants, who settled there in later years or, they are Germanized Slavs.

Affairs of state and, particularly, religious and political questions first brought Bohemians and Germans together. Bohemian kings, always anxious to equal and even to excel their neighbors, intermarried frequently with German wives and gave their offsprings German names. Boleslas II. had a German wife, Emma, and their son Oldřich (Othelrich, Ulrich) is the first among our native kings with a German name; later on we meet with such names as Kunrath, Otto, Lutolt, Henry, Frederick,

Ottokar, etc., and the princesses were almost exclusively German. In this way a large number of Germans congregated around the prince's throne till Spytihněv, in 1055, drove them all out of the country. The higher clergy, too, was selected in those days from among the Germans and the first teachers of the gospel under Vratislav and St. Václav were mostly monks called in the country from Regensburg. Detmar, the first bishop, was a Saxon by birth and among the seventeen bishops up to the end of XII. c., seven were Germans. At the installation of Detmar, it is chronicled, the clergy and the principal nobles in the land sang in German.

Numerous privileges extended to the trading class brought many German merchants to Bohemia. Under Vratislav (1061-92) a number of German traders settled in Prague permanently, on a street bearing their name (vicus Teutonicorum). Here they had their own priest and judge. By fresh arrivals this colony grew in numbers and extent and under Soběslav II. (1173-78) the chroniclers already mention several streets inhabited by Germans. Soběslav I. (1125-40) having lived in Germany for many years, introduced various customs, heretofore unknown, n his native country, and built castles in imitation of the Germans. In 1196 the first village in Bohemia received a German name. King Přemysl I. (1197-1230) in founding "free towns," so called, induced many German immigrants to settle therein; thus arose, during his reign, Hradec Králové, Hrozñetín (Lichtenstadt) and Kladruby. The town of Německý Brod existed already.

King Václav 1. (1230-53) who was fond of German language, manners and customs, and who maintained at his court the celebrated German poet, Reinman von Zweter, brought probably more German colonists in the country than any other king before him. During his reign monks from neighboring countries flocked to Bohemia; German colonists founded a separate town near Prague (Nové Město—Neu Stadt) where they exercised supreme control of municipal affairs. According to Dalimil this same king caused the descendants of his own family, settled in their ancient seat Stadice, to be driven out and settled by Germans. A German nobleman, von Friedberg, the king's favorite, introduced tournaments in Bohemia. To please the king, the native lords began to give German names to their castles, and, having later on adopted them as family names, bequeathed them to their descendants. Thus originated in those days the family names of Rosenberk's, Lemberk's, Riesenburks, Lichtenburk's and later, Švamberk's, Riesenberk's, Valdek's, Valdstein's, Landstein's, Hasenburk's, Rosenthal's, Talmberk's, Gutenstein's, Richenburk's, etc. Přemysl II. (1253-78) was almost as ambitious as Václav to found new cities and people them with German colonists. Chroniclers mention the founding of the following cities during this king's reign: Ùstí n. Labem, Beroun, Most, Budějovice, Čáslav, Chrudim, Vysoké Mýto, Kadaň, Kouřim, Klatový, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Mělník, Nimburk, Plzeň, Polička and Domažlice; at about this time came into existence "lord's cities" Litomyšl, Krumlov, Rosenberk, Nové Hrady, Nová Bystřice, Bydžov. It is also probable that a large number of cities, of which mention is made by subsequent writers, like Jaroměř, Louny, Stříbro, Rakovník, Slané, Vodňany, etc., date their origin to this time. On the border line of Bohemia numberless villages were founded by Germans whose colonizing efforts received every possible encouragement from monks and nobility. The order of the Minorites, introduced in the country in 1232, was particularly noted for the many foreign colonies it had established. Another order famous in that respect were the "Prussian knights," (1252) whose seat, the town of Chomútov, was so thoroughly German, that it became customary to say: "Everywhere people but in Chomútov Germans." After the fall of Ottokar and during the regency of Otto of Brandenburg which followed it, the country was literally flooded by marauders from Brandenburg; and the complaints of the natives against this state of things were so frequent, that an edict had to be issued by the diet, banishing them from the country in three days (Nov. 25, 1281). The colonization of Friedland and Reichenberg (Liberec) is traceable to the reign of Václav II. (1278-1305) and it was superintended by the lords of Biberstein. These German colonists made vast clearings in the border forests, building new villages and tilling the ground. Their industry also made the silver mines at Kutná Hora and at Německý Brod more productive; but on the other hand, when the enemies invaded the country, these people were wont to fraternize with them and open their cities to them. This occured several times during the regencies of Otto of Brandenburg and Henry of Carinthia. Under John of Luxemburg (1310-46) the influence of the Germans in Bohemia was at its highest; at this king's coronation (1311) the common people at Prague, it is said, sang more in German than in Bohemian; at the court and in the cities German language prevailed almost exclusively; the laws were published in both Latin and German and even some Bohem-

ian lords corresponded with each other in that language. With the annexation of Cheb, (Eger) already Germanized in 1322, the number of Germans in Bohemia was again increased. Charles IV. (1346-78) had also the laws of the country framed in German and he gave to foreigners, attending the Prague university, founded by him, three votes, while the Bohemians received only one.

Karlové Vary (Carlsbad) received its privileges written in German (1370) and to Litoměřice, Hora Kutná and Kadaň, Charles used to write in German; in the city of Beroun the citizens belonged to both nationalities. Under King Václav IV. (1378-1419) the influence of the Germans suffered a marked setback, although that king also used the German language, besides Latin and Bohemian, in writing to his subjects in Kutná Hora, Litoměřice and Plzeň. Owing to the fact, that Germans, having three votes in the university outvoted the Bohemians on every occasion, the king changed the order of things and gave Germans one vote and Bohemians three. In consequence of this hundreds of students and professors left Prague. This was the first serious blow to German influence in Bohemia. Soon after this occurence the king caused an order to be issued (1413) that in future, the city council of the Old Town of Prague, heretofore wholly German, shall consist of half Germans and half Bohemians and that mayors of German nationality were eligible for office only in case they were acquainted with the Bohemian language. Hussite wars and especially the victories of the Prague faction, reduced the power of Germans to the lowest ebb. Kutná Hora capitulated to the Prague people on April 24, 1421, and notwithstanding the fact that its inhabitants returned in 1437, Germans never regained their hold on that city and subsequently it was Bohemianized altogether. Jaroměř having capitulated on May 15, 1421, also became a Bohemian city. Other cities, like Žatec, Chrudim, Hradec Králové, Vysoké Mýto, etc., issued edicts declaring, that all those who had fled before the enemy had forfeited the right of citizenship.

In the fifteenth century Germans lost ground both in royal cities and among the nobility. Many noble families like the Schlicks, Stampachs, Donins, Zeidlitz von Schönfeld began to learn Bohemian and in time their descendants were as patriotic as the natives.

Beginning with Ferdinand I. who made the German, Florian Griespeck of Griesbach, his private secretary, fresh stream of German immigration set toward Bohemia. German language again fought its way into the administration, the judiciary and the pulpit. So threatening was the invasion at one time that the land diet felt the necessity of interfering in 1554 and in 1556. At this time many German families, subsequently noted, settled in the land, like Hochhauser of Hochhausen, Widersperker of Widersperk, Stubenberk's, Kekryc's Elsnic's, Sahlhausen, Hofmann of Grunbuchl and others. At that time, too, were founded such German mining cities as Jachimov, (1516) Kupferberg, (1520) Bleistadt, (1524) Katharinaberg, (1528) Abertham, (1529) Bärringen,(1532) Blatno (Platten), Gottesgab Wiesenthal, Sonnenberg, Freiheit and Schwarzenthal (1556).

During the second half of the XVI. c., many Bohemian lords, attached to the court of Maximilian II., devoted themselves to the study of German and they employed teachers for their sons; their tombstones bear in many instances German inscriptions. In 1587 an order was issued from the royal chamber, managed almost exclusively by Germans, directing the mining officials at Kutná Hora, to report in the German language. A check was put to the further spread of German by a law, passed in 1615, that "no one shall in the future become a citizen unless he is conversant with Bohemian." At the same time the diet forbade the use of the name "German town" in Prague, on the ground that "the law of the land knows no exclusive German community in Bohemia." Poprocký, however, thus writes of the nobility of his time: "The *Zemans* (hereditary land-owners of small estates) of Bohemia are more patriotic than the lords who are very exclusive in their associations, because they are more fond of German than Slavonian manners and customs; nor is it easy to find pure Bohemians among them, owing to frequent intermarriages between Germans and Bohemians."

The defeat at White Mountain brought no hardships on Germans, the whole weight of the terrible catastrophe falling on the Bohemians. If anything, Germans profited by it, since the exile of 36,000 Bohemian families left vacant many farmlands, workshops, schools and churches which were afterwards filled by German colonists. Native nobility (1088 families) having left the country, or being banished, their estates were confiscated and divided among foreigners. In this calamitous period the German families of Gallas, Trautmansdorf, Thun, Hoissenstein, Goltz, Lichtenstein, Aldringen, Morzin, Dietrichstein, Pötting, Eggenberg; Italian families of Piccolomini, Colloredo, Villani, Caretto; French families of Defours, Buquoy, Lamboy; Spanish, Maradas, Hoeff-Huerta, Vasquez, and many others.

Prior to the battle at the White Mountain, Bohemian was recognized as the only official language of the country; all this changed after the "renewed code" of Ferdinand had been adopted whereby the use of both languages, Bohemian and German, was allowed. From this time dates the Germanization of Bohemian nobility, which had yet remained in the country. Another blow to Bohemians at this time was the introduction in the country of religious orders, like the Carmelites, Capuchines, etc., which consisted principally of Germans and Spaniards; these ecclesiastics burnt Bohemian books with the assistance of Jesuits and Bohemians, owing to the scarcity of books printed in their language, were compelled to procure German reading. The Thirty Year's War raged with terrible fury in Bohemia. In February, 1640, Banner had destroyed 400 villages around Most, and in 1647 Wrangel laid waste one whole county, (Žatec Saaz) German landlords who owned landed property in Austria and Bavaria, brought colonists from these countries settling them in the depopulated villages. This work of colonization was pushed on with greater vigor after 1681, in which year some 100,000 people in Bohemia died from pestilence. For decades the work of Germanization went on, encouraged by the successive sovereigns, until it seemed, at the close of the last century, that the Slavonic element in Bohemia had died out altogether.

German books began to be published in Prague in larger number in the first part of the XVII. c. In the XVIII. c., their number grew year by year. The first German lectures in the university of Prague date back to 1764; in 1774 the German language was introduced in the "principal schools" and in 1776 into common schools. A law was passed in 1786 that only those who were conversant with the German language were eligible for admission to the gymnasia (middle schools). Later on even apprentices to various trades were required to show a sufficient knowledge of German before being entitled to their certificates. In 1784 an order was issued that henceforth all the lectures in the Prague university were to be delivered in German.

The revival of the Bohemian language may be dated back to 1845. Since that time very little or no national territory has been lost, on the contrary, many German villages situated either in mixed or purely Bohemian districts were Bohemianized. Foreigners, ignorant of all this, have more than once expressed their surprise at the large number of German names, the bearers of which were full blooded Bohemians. Living side by side for centuries, the two nationalities in Bohemia are now so blended together that we find among modern Bohemians such illustrious patriots as Jungmann, Rieger, Brauner, and others, whose German origin is as manifest as the Slavonic ancestry of Chlumetzky's, Schmeykal's, Taschek's, and many others, who have won distinction as our national enemies.

IS THE OUTLOOK BETTER?

The German newspaper bureau shows marked signs of discontent over the turn which politics had taken since the formation of the coalition.

"Why this interminable squabble about Bohemian affairs?" said the German newspapers then, "are there no other countries situated south of the Sudetic mountains? How about the Alpine lands? Why should the Bohemian question monopolize our politics? Therefore: "Let there be quiet in Bohemia." "Long live the coalition!" Such was the sentiment then of the Austrian Germans who believed that the coalition of the three "great parties," for the purpose of silencing the Bohemian nation, would have such an effect that no one would dare to utter a word in our fatherland.

Observe, however, what turn the affairs had taken now. Instead of an improvement we see that things are worse than they ever were before. Only mark the occurences of the last few days. Sixty-seven Bohemian owners of large estates have formed a special club and they have indorsed the program of the Young Chekhs. Similar position was taken by the Old Chekhs in Moravia. What will Rieger's adherents in Bohemia do now? They would have undoubtedly maintained their vacillating policy much longer, but under existing circumstances nothing remains for them but to resign their seats or to issue a manifesto and join the Young Chekhs.

As to the mode of warfare the united Bohemian opposition intends to pursue, that we learn from the declaration of Moravian deputies. In this declaration reference is made to a resolution which had been adopted by all Bohemian parties at a conference held on All Saints Day, in 1892, but despite this the Moravians make the same demands as the Young Chekhs. In the first place they introduced a motion in Brno, (capital of Moravia where the land diet meets,) that the state of siege in Bohemia be suspended, and secondly that a court of appeals for all the Bohemian crown-lands be instituted in Prague; and, besides this a bill will be introduced by the Bohemians in Moravia, favoring universal suffrage.

From this we may see that in the near future all

CAROLINE SVĚTLÁ.

There is hardly a Bohemian immigrant in the United States, no matter how ignorant, who has not heard the names of Caroline Světlá and Sophia Podlipská, the most eminent women writers of Bohemia. Caroline Světlá, born in Prague, February 24, 1830, is the elder sister of Sophia Podlipská. In conformance with the notions of the day Světlá was brought up in a German-French school for girls and when sixteen years old could not say a correct sentence in Bohemian. Family traditions—she is descended from an old Bohemian family— exercised such a powerful influence on her imaginative mind that she devoted herself to the study of Bohemian, not relaxing until she had completely mastered it. Her collected works form a library in themselves and most of the books exhibited by Bohemian women at the Woman's Department of the Chicago Fair, bore the name of Caroline Světlá.

the representatives from Bohemia and Moravia will be welded into one opposition party which will combat the coalition. It goes without saying that this united and general opposition will be more effective than the present one, split up in groups. Nor will the Bohemian opposition confine itself to defensive operations; it is intended that it should work both on the defensive and offensive as it is doing now in the Bohemian and Moravian diets. The policy of the Young Chekhs drew with resistless force, every opposition element within its magic circle and it would be folly even to doubt that it is steadily advancing. All this is very significant when we consider that not even the state of siege could check its growth.

Such is the situation in the Sudetic countries and no one can tell when a change for the better will take place.

Commenting upon this complicated state of affairs, the *Národní Listy* says: "Things can hardly be different in a country inhabited by a dissatisfied nation six millions strong, highly civilized, energetic, and with a glorious past. True, the outlook is gloomy but who would feel happier than we, if after this protracted strife peace would finally return to our country? We offer battle to no one and we only defend ourselves when attacked by our enemies."

BOHEMIA'S RELATIONS TO GERMANY.

The relations of Bohemia to the old Germanic empire was always based on international treaties of two independent states. There never was a time at which Bohemia either formed a component part of the empire or was subject to it.

"At the end of the ninth century," says the Frenchman Leger, "Bohemia was paying to the German emperor a tribute of one hundred and twenty oxen and five hundred marks of silver. In 895, the two princes, Spytihěv and Vratislav, tired of the authority of Svatopluk, did homage for their states to the emperor. In 928 Václav I. renewed the engagement to pay the tribute of oxen and silver. In 1081, this was changed into one which bound Bohemia to furnish three hundred knights to accompany the emperor to Rome for his coronation. At the same time we do not hear of the princes of Bohemia doing homage or claiming investiture at the accession of each German sovereign, and the payment of the tribute proves nothing more than that there was an international treaty between them. Vassals, indeed, did not pay tribute. Louis the Child and Henry the Fowler paid tribute to Hungary; Poland at one time paid tribute to Bohemia in the same way, but she was not her vassal. The emperor never excercised any right of sovereignty over Bohemia; he never levied troops, he excercised no judical authority, nor could he bind Bohemia by the treaties which he entered into with the court of Rome. The emperor Lothar failed in his attempts to impose a king on Bohemia in 1126. At the beginning of the twelfth century a Bohemian prince received the honorary title as cup-bearer, as a reward for services rendered to the empire. Later on, Ottakar I. and Václav I. took part in the election of the emperor but this title of elector was a purely personal one, and involved no sort of obligation on the part of Bohemia herself. Just as, at the present time, the sovereigns of Europe exchange orders of knighthood, and all the members, for example, of the order of the Golden Fleece recognize the King of Spain as their grand-master, so in the same way the acceptance of the title of king from the emperor implied, according to the notions of the time, no sort of feudal obligation. As the time went on, the German emperors took advantage of the rivalries and quarrels of the Bohemian princes, just as the Tartars profited by the anarchy caused in Russia by the quarrels of the princes of the house of Rurik. They tried more than once to get possession of certain portions of Bohemia, such as the bishopric of Prague and the margraviate of Moravia, but after each attempt the unity of the kingdom was quickly restored. When once the pope had given his sanction to the adoption of the royal title, any special connection between the Prince of Bohemia and the emperor resting on the imperial grant must have disappeared."

After the consolidation of Hungary, Bohemia and Austria, under Ferdinand I., (in 1526) a controversy arose between Ferdinand and the German princes, these latter trying to impose taxes, at the Augsburg Diet, held in 1548, on Bohemia. Ferdinand resisted the demands of the German princes vigorously. From a copy of the proceedings of that diet, it appears that Ferdinand refused to pay taxes for Bohemia, "because that country did not constitute a part of the Germanic empire, nor was it ever its vassal, the only connection between them being that some estates belonging to the Bohemian crown were situated in Germany; that it was never customary for Bohemian kings to be present at the diets and that they never had a vote there; that Bohemia never acknowledged the sovereignty, or sought protection under the laws or constitution of Germany; lastly, that Bohemia was never included in any of the imperial provinces, and for these reasons was not obliged to contribute to the expen ditures of the Germanic empire."

THE "OMLADINA" TRIAL.

The treason trial of the "Omladina"—an alleged organization of young men—which begun on January 15th in Prague, attracted the attention of the entire Europe. In anticipation of interesting developments, all the prominent journals of Austria and Germany sent their reporters to Prague. The number of the accused was 77, but only 76 were present, one of them Hoch, having fled to London. Of these 76, two were without any religious confession and 1 was a Jew. As far as the vocation of the accused is concerned, 2 were students attending middle schools, 1 had just graduated, 11 were merchant's clerks, 2 journalists, 1 law clerk, 54 mechanics, (principally glove-makers and type-setters). Besides these 72 there were implicated, attorney Rašín and journalists A. Hajn, K. Sokol and J. Škába. But 21 of the accused were over 20 years of age, six were married, 1 was a widower, the rest of them being single men.

The offenses which were imputed to the "Omladina's" covered a great deal of legal paper and included treason, insult to the emperor, secret association, and disturbing of peace. The charge of treason was made in 14 cases, insult to his majesty in 14 cases, 1 was accused of insulting a member of the imperial family, 53 were accused of disturbing public peace, 74 of secret association, etc. Besides these political offenses 1 was accused of embezzlement, 1 of fraud and 1 of larceny. Over 150 witnesses on both sides were summoned to be present at the trial. Dr. Krčmář was the presiding judge, Messrs Hoffman, Marouschek, Patera, Maresch and Feyerer assisting, Dr. Lorenc prosecuted for the state. The accused were defended by attorneys Herold, Stránský, Cernohorský, Baxa, Kliment, Schmaus, Žalud and Just.

The trial was secret and Austrian newspapermen were allowed to print only such harmless portions of it as were not offensive to the public censor. Despite all precautions that were taken in regard to the press, many newspapers were confiscated (several in Vienna) for publishing "dangerous material" from the trial.

A Prague reporter who had been present at the trial thus described it: "An unusual stir prevails in the hall where the examination is conducted. Everything is out of the ordinary at this trial: the judiciary, which under the state of siege performs the function of the jury, and the small and stifling hall where the judges are cooped up with the attorneys, the defendants with their confidential friends, the prisoners with the court baillifs. Even before the trial had begun, complaints were made about lack of space in the room. The law allows to every accused three confidential friends who may be present at the trial; hence, if the law could be enforced, there should have been 228 of these friends present. The attorneys for the defendants telegraphed to the misister of justice, Schönborn, to have the trial take place ("for the sake of humanity and justice") in a larger place, but the minister refused to interfere. Such being the case only about 50 of these confidential friends could gain admission to the trial every day and they had to elbow their way into the hall.

"Notwithstanding the fact, that imprisonment of 7 and 10 years stares in the faces of some of the accused, they all conduct themselves bravely. Both those who are at liberty and those who languish in prison are cheerful and composed, and they greet each other affectionately.

"So far the trial has developed nothing of interest and the results obtained are disappointing to many, principally to foreigners. Viennese newspapers could hardly conceal their chagrin when the charge against the accused was made public; they had expected something more. This feeling of disappointment—judging from the comments of foreign newspapers—increases every day. Our enemies were anticipating a sort of a political spoil from the trial— a vast conspiracy. Instead of this, the examination of all those who were supposed to belong to a secret society, with treasonable aims, has revealed nothing outside of the murder of Mrva. This act pervades all the trials. There could not have existed any secret organization among these young men, because, as the examination has shown, everyone almost shares different political views; there are some amongst them who even disapprove of the program of the "Omladina," which seems to have aimed at the unification of the programs of socialists and nationalists. As it is, some members of the "Omladina" are radicals, others international socialists and still others independent. In many cases they were perfect strangers to each other."

The *verdict*, which was brought in on February 21, is very severe. Of the 72 accused 20 were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 2 to 8 years, 50 accused from 2 weeks to 2 months and two were acquitted. Ziegloser, cabinet maker, 18 years old, was sentenced to 8 years; Bohumil Šticha, tailor, 22 years old, and Hugo Hradec, law clerk, 17 years old, were given 5 years each; Václav Čížek, law clerk, 22 years old was sentenced to 6 years; Anton Hajn, journalist, 25 years old, 18 months and Holzbach, journalist, 19 years old, 13 months. Dragoun and Doležal, who are charged with the murder of Rudolph Mrva, an alleged police spy, who implicated most of these young men, were not sentenced yet.

CHARLES JONÁŠ.

Among the nominations sent by the president to the senate on February 27, was that of Charles Jonáš of Racine, Wis., for consul general at St. Petersburg, Russia, and, as there are no objections to Mr. Jonáš either in Washington or St. Petersburg, he is as good as appointed. Born 54 years ago at Malešov, Bohemia, Mr. Jonáš came to this country during the late civil war. Journalism, in which he engaged immediately upon his arrival, led him to take an active part in the political strife of those days. The democratic party of Wisconsin, of which Mr. Jonáš is a staunch adherent since 1872, soon recognized his worth and elected him to various local and state offices. His election to the state senate was followed by the appointment, during Cleveland's first term, to the Prague consulship and finally, the election, with Peck and the entire state democratic ticket, to the office of lieutenant governor. As a journalist and author Mr. Jonáš stands high both in the United States and in his native country. Aside from its usual honors the appointment of Mr. Jonáš to the capital of the Northern Empire has a significance which only a Slavonian can understand. In our estimation, Mr. Cleveland has not made a more fitting choice for any office, either diplomatic or consular, during his present administration, than this one.

A Child of Prague.

From the Bohemian of J. T Ž.

A number of unmarried young ladies living in a small town by the name of J. were made unhappy by the local postman, who gave to each of them a carefully written letter containing the following:

"My dear companion:—You must have observed that for a long time the adjunct (assistant) from the S. . . . . sugar refinery has been very attentive to me. You have seen him once at the Firemen's ball at the "Shooting Park" and you will remember that he danced with me exclusively. All the girls were jealous of me. I am sure that you alone wished to see me happy and that you were really glad that such a handsome, good and respectable man, occupying an enviable position, shoud be paying court to me. Do you know, one would hardly believe that he is but twenty-eight years old and that he has, besides a free lodging in the refinery—consisting of a suite of five rooms of the size of ball rooms--fuel and light, and 1,000 florins a year? It is quite possible that he will one day become a superintendent of the sugar refinery. Some time ago he received a letter from the proprietor of it, the imperial chancellor B. from Prague, who told him that he wished him much happiness in his matrimonial venture. Ah, dear companion, I have forgotten to tell you the main thing. Well, the adjunct asked yesterday for my hand and in two months the wedding will take place. The imperial chancellor has already sent to my fiancé 300 florins as a gift for his wedding tour. We intended to go to Italy at first, but as our wedding takes place in July, we shall not go there, that month being too hot. We have therefore decided to go to Ostende, which is a charming sea resort, patronized even by Russian grand duchesses. Imagine, if you can, my happiness and how it all surprised me. As a wedding gift I have received a beautiful diamond ring and diamond earrings. Oh, you should see these dear jewels! I am so infatuated with them that for hours I observe myself in the looking glass. As I must begin to prepare my wedding trousseau soon, I thought that you could help me a little. With warm kisses, I am yours, HENRIETTE,

Happy Bride."

This was an unpleasant surprise for the belles of J. Adjunct Závora was the best and the most eligible young man in the whole neighborhood and they have all set their caps on him. And here he selects Henriette, that uninteresting blonde, who will bring him but four thousand florins as her marriage portion all told! They all cried over "Henriette's happiness," they all made mean remarks about the "happy bride,"—but nevertheless they had all come to assist her in the preparation of her wedding trousseau.

Thekla Vaníček, the adopted child of the railroad depot store keeper, received a similar note, with the only exception that the letter was written on a plain, unscented paper. Thekla was a foundling, a "Child of Prague," as such children are nicknamed and chance would have it that she was adopted by good, honest and benevolent people. The store keeper and his wife were childless and having accumulated little property consisting of a nice little house and a few acres of land, they got lonesome in their old age and began to pine for the prattle of a child. One day, therefore, the storekeeper's wife started for Prague and knocking on the gates of the "Red House" she begged the gentlemen there for some grown up "child of Prague." The official, an old, affable gentleman, regarded the woman for a while and then said: "Yes, there is one here but it needs a true mother."

"I will care for it as if it were my own child," said the store keeper's wife warmly.

"Well, then, take a look at it," replied the affable gentleman, conducting the woman to the foundling asylum, which for lack of space is to this day situated in the state insane asylum. The store keeper's wife was amazed at what she saw. They entered a large, airy hall where there was a row of about 30 beds. In each of these lay a baby. Taking the store keeper's wife clear to the other end of the hall, the official pointed to a little bed with a child.

The store keeper's wife screamed with fright and placed a handkerchief before her terrified eyes.

What she saw was hardly a living being—it was a skeleton.

Unable to control her emotion any longer, the good woman broke out in loud sobs at the sight of the poor, emaciated child.

"Only a conscientious, careful soul can save that child," continued the old gentleman, who himself was visibly affected by the sight. "It was entrusted to hard and unfeeling people, but fortunately, the management of the asylum was notified in time of the brutal treatment of its ward. If you adopt this child I myself will be pleased, because I see that you possess a good heart. The poor thing is all alone in the wide world, its mother having died one week after giving it life."

"But will not the poor creature die in my arms?" asked the store keeper's wife with anxiety.

"The child will not die because it is not sickly, only ill fed," re-assured her the official.

And so the store keeper's wife brought home the "child of Prague," the sight of which filled every mother of J. with pity. The store keeper himself could not conceal his emotion and he said: "For God sake, mother, what have you brought there? That little worm can live only a short time."

The child, however, was not going to die and it thrived remarkably well. Inside of three months the little skeleton changed into a chubby baby that could hardly find its equal in the town, One day the old folks sat down to a table and "mamma" wrote the following letter to the Prague foundling asylum:

"Dear gentlemen:—You should see that little baby of yours now. It is just like a peach and as lively as a little carp. Great was our fear, that one day it would die, but God has ordained otherwise. We hope to bring up the little girl and make her a useful member of society. One thing, however, fills us with fear, and that is that after we get attached to it, that someone will take it away from us. We have a nice little cottage and now my old man has again bought two acres, so that we own altogether 20 acres of land. We hope to save something besides, as father is strong and healthy yet, praised be God, and he does not need to go on pension and he can work for many years to come. And so I thought that one day we would give all we have to that unfortunate creature, which has no one in the wide world to take care of it."

The old gentleman--as the old folks found out later on, was the superintendent of the asylum—answered their letter on the third day. The old couple cried over this note like children How beautifully he wrote to them, how fervently he thanked them for everything they had ever done for the poor foundling They were especially glad to know, that no one would ever claim the child, that it had no relatives and that they could keep it as their own.

In the meantime Thekla grew up until she was seventeen years old. The old folks gave her such education as they would give to their own child. Nevertheless the daughters of the local aristocracy could never forget the fact that Thekla had been a foundling, a "child of Prague," whose parents no one knew. On every occasion,

at entertainments, excursions or theater they gave the poor girl to understand plainly that they did not consider her their equal and that she stood several notches lower in the social scale.

Not one of them, however, could measure herself with Thekla, either in point of beauty or accomplishments.

Thekla really budded out in a beautiful girl. There was something so pleasingly graceful, modest shy about her whole being that everybody felt attracted to her. She well knew that she was born out of a legal wedlock, but that did not grieve her so much as the thought that her father, whoever he may be, had never re-claimed her. When her companions touched upon this cruel wound, that was constantly open and bleeding, she would cry whole nights and think that every foundling was born only to suffer.

One day an excursion was made to a new watering resort in R. The girls upon being informed that a young doctor from Prague had been appointed as medical director there, made all sorts of preparations to appear in their best before the newcomer. With what hopes and plans did the young ladies go that day to R.! They captured the young doctor, as it were, and held him in captivity the whole afternoon.

More than once the doctor's eye wandered toward the tall and thoughtful Thekla, who seemed to keep away purposely from her frolicking companions. At last he inquired about her.

"Ah, she," said Miss Raphaela, the daughter of the richest citizen from J., who was firmly convinced by this time, that the doctor was madly in love with her. "she is our little child of Prague. We have taken her along, poor thing, so that she might amuse herself once in a while."

The young man startled. "A child of Prague," he muttered to himself and his eyes again wandered in the direction, where flitted the beautiful figure of Thekla.

After a short time the doctor took his leave. He pleaded the duties of his office which, at this time, required his presence elsewhere.

In a retired nook of the summer resort's walk, he met Thekla. An involuntary shiver ran through the young man the moment he looked into her deep, soft eyes.

"We have many things in common," began the doctor in a gentle voice. "By accident I have discovered that you are a foundling. The moment I heard this I had no rest. I had to see you and speak to you—for I too had been born in the "Red House"—I too, am a foundling. Good and honest people brought me up and all I am today is due to them."

Like brother and sister the two foundlings now began to relate to each other their mutual sufferings. Two really happy foundlings they were – how rare and touching occurence!

Miss Raphaela was getting very impatient in the meantime. The doctor had been gone one hour already. At last, she saw him returning, his face beaming with some unknown but strong joy. Raphaela's heart beat faster.

"He loves me and he is delighted to see me again. My companions will be green with envy – if he would only declare himself to-day. I must offer him every opportunity at the ball to-night."

But the doctor was no dancer and did not even attend the ball. Had Raphaela only suspected that he accompanied home the store keeper's family and Thekla....

* * *

Miss Henriette's room, with windows overlooking the square, was transformed into a dressmaking establishment, where worked, on the bride's trousseau, twelve shapely hands. The windows opening in the square were an important feature of this working room, and one of the girls stood there constantly on guard. This sentinel was not required to work as industriously as the others, her duty consisting in reporting everything that took place on the square.

Thekla as usual was the last one among the belles of J., though the most beautiful. Of this latter fact the others were only too conscious and their antipathy to the "child of Prague" was partly due to that cause. They placed the poor girl near the door and assigned the hardest work to her—the operation of the sewing machine.

"That will be a sweet marriage" meant laughingly Raphaela, whose careless scissors did more damage than good, "for they will live in a sugar refinery where they will have abundance of sweet things."

Henriette took all these jokes good-naturedly like all happy people, the happiest of all being, of course, prospective grooms and brides.

All at once the guard called out in a piercing voice:

"Raphaela, Raphaela. run to the window, quick, the doctor from R. is walking across the square."

Throwing the scissors to the floor, Raphaela gathered up her dress and ran to the window like mad. Her companions followed her.

Thekla alone remained in her seat. Fortunately nobody was paying any attention to her and, therefore, could not see, how she paled and trembled all over at the words the "doctor from R."

"Raphaela, what a husband he will make," remarked Henriette.

"Really, he is a very handsome man," said another in a voice tinged with jealousy.

"Ela, did he tell you already that he loved you?" insisted the inquisitive judge's daughter."

"Such things are not made public," replied Raphaela in a mysterious manner and she was really sorry at this moment, that the doctor had not yet proposed.

"He is fully as good a catch as the adjunct."

"I should think so," retorted Raphaela quickly. "The doctor's yearly salary amounts to 3,000 florins and in addition to this he gets free lodging, light, fuel, large orchard, two cows, couple horses, three acres of land and five bottles of mineral water a day. . . . .

"Girl, who told you all this?" demanded the judge's daughter in astonishment.

"My dear Mili, how can you ask such a silly question—of couse the doctor himself has told me," lied Raphaela, the bare possibility of becoming the doctor's wife flattering her vanity.

"And when did he tell you this? Please tell us, it is very interesting," insisted her companions returning to their seats, for the doctor had disappeared in an adjoining street.

Thekla was as pale as a sheet while the conversation went on.

"I cannot tell you much", began Raphaela, her face beaming with false happinesss, "the doctor is very timid and did not have the courage on our first meeting. Well, you saw him walking across the square—he is surely going to our house. I shall go home in a little while—let him wait in the meantime. I am afraid I was too cold and reserved in his presence and I have possibly scared him. Besides, I knew nothing about his past, and may be that he is engaged already; and as far as I am concerned, I am acquainted, as you know, with the count's forester. However, as you may suppose, I would prefer the doctor."

The girls listened to her with bated breath as they had listened, ten years ago, to tales relates by their grandmothers.

This also was a tale to which Raphaela treated them now.

Poor Thekla felt unutterably sad.

"We wandered together in remote walks of the summer

resort. Suddenly, and without a moment's warning, the doctor asked me, whether I was in love. . . . "

"Oh, now it begins to get romantic" exclaimed the judge's daughter.

"Mili, be quiet," cried the other girls.

"Would you care ?" said I evasively.

"I would ! "

"And why ? "

"Because I would like to know the fortunate man."

"Fortunate ? . . . do you really mean it ? "

"Beautiful, beautiful, Raphaela,—just like on a stage," again remarked Mili who was unable to control herself.

"Yes, fortunate. Who loves and is loved by such a beautiful girl as you is fortunate and he is to be envied," said the doctor in a moved voice.

"To that I remained silent. I knew enough. Then he commenced talking about his position, that besides his annual salary he will have an extensive practice and that it was time for him to look around for a companion."

"Is that all? Did he say anything about love and kisses?" inquired the astonished judge's daughter.

"May be he would have alluded to that, also," continued Raphaela with her fabrication, "but just at that moment a number of our friends joined us and my conversation with the doctor was interrupted. I think it will be decided today, I must go home in a few moments. I am sure he is in our house, but I shall not go home alone. They might say afterwards that I was running after him. They will send after me, I am sure."

During this talk, which did not contain a word of truth, Thekla's face was alternately red and pale. From the first that she had spoken with the doctor, she could not forget his loving glances, his manly face, prematurely old and serious. Now she had to hear such incredible things, and it seemed that all she had heard from Raphaela's lips the doctor intended to tell her.

"True," she sighed and a tear fell on the silk, "I have forgotten that I am only "a child of Prague."

Just then someone knocked on the door.

Raphaela jumped up like a shot.

"They are coming after me," she exclaimed triumphantly. By this time she herself believed that what she had told her companions would come out true.

When the local letter carrier entered the room she resumed her seat, not without some disapointment.

The letter carrier held in his hand a scented letter—obviously a love letter.

"That must be for me" thought each girl to herself. Thekla alone did not even dream that the letter might be addressed to her.

She was almost frightened when the letter-carrier handed the letter to her.

"A gentleman was looking for you," the letter-carrier went on, in a mysteriously teasing manner "and then he wanted to send the letter by mail. "I will deliver it" said I, 'and it won't take so much time."

"Ah, ha! little Thekla too, has some acquaintance," remarked the judge's daughter maliciously.

"Some one connected with the railroad, I presume, probably the new watchman. He is a nice fellow," meant Henriette.

The letter-carrier was gone some time when Thekla, who could not think who her correspondent might be, opened the letter. Silence reigned in the room.

Suddenly the foundling gave a piercing scream. The letter fell from her hands to the floor.

Like a cat jumping after a mouse, Raphaela snatched the letter.

"Read it, read it aloud," insisted the girls who were getting very impatient.

"The mineral springs at R."

"Is it from the mineral springs then?"—remarked Raphaela.

"Read, read," demanded the young ladies impatiently. Raphaela, therefore, continued to read:

"Esteemed, dear Miss!"

"Look at that little conspirator," again broke out the sharp tongue of the judge's daughter.

"Silence."

"Listen:"

"I shall never forget our memorable meeting at the mineral springs. Our fates bear such close resemblance to each other, that our meeting must be attributed to something else than a mere chance. I recall at this moment an incident from my last visit to the state foundlings' asylum at Prague. On that occasion the superintendent told me many flattering things, but I remember especially these words: "We have a foundling in northern Bohemia, of which we are proud. She is as beautiful as a picture, but what is more—she possesses a golden heart." Although I have seen you but once, my whole soul belongs to you. You know well that I did not care to be present on the evening of the entertainment and therefore I did not go to the ball, where . . ."

Raphaela, deathly pale, threw away the letter.

But the letter had not reached the floor before the quick Mili had caught it.

"I will finish it, I, I," she gasped.

". . . and therefore I did not go to the ball where I would have bored myself, even if there were present young ladies with names like Raphaela."

"There, there," exclaimed the girls in a chorus. Mili continued:

"I will tell you frankly, I love you, I adore you. And like an honorable man who is in position to support a wife . ."

"Like an honorable man," repeated Mili with emphasis and continued:

. . . "I ask for your hand. I will be happy if you do not reject me and I shall bless the moment when I first met you. With kind regards to your esteemed guardians,

I am your devoted,

Dr. J. B. . . .

Medical Director at R.

Her head laid upon the sewing machine, Thekla sobbed violently.

It was from happiness that the "child of Prague," ignored and insulted by every body, cried.

The girls were crushed and overwhelmed. The "happy bride" and her adjunct were overshadowed.

The lying Raphaela overcome by shame and disgrace ran away.

In two months two young girls from J. received new titles. Henriette, as "Mrs. Adjunct" removed to the sugar refinery and "the little child of Prague"—took her residence as "Mrs. Doctor", in the mineral springs.

Raphaela did not attend the wedding, pleading indisposition. Nobody, however, believed in her illness.

Miscellaneous.

On February 19, begun the trial at Vienna, of twelve anarchists who were arrrested September last, charged with conspiracy against the life of emperor Francis Joseph. The names of the accused are: Franz Haspel and Stefan Hahnel (ring-leaders) and Mathias Štětka, Martin Stikula, Karl Kinkal, Johann Vopatek, Karl Moravec, Joseph Schenel, Michael Welner, Mathias Fleischhans, Joseph Komárek and Karl Koetzel. The trial is secret and the prosecution proposes to prove that the accused were in touch with the anarchists of England and America and the trial may also throw some light upon the organization of the International and the action of a body whose doings even during the present year have shocked the whole

world. Fortunately for the men they are being tried before a jury. If they were tried before a military tribunal like the "Omladina's" at Prague, they would be doomed.

During the months of July and August last, the Austrian police were greatly exercised by the successful dissemination among the working classes and among every section of the army of dangerous and violently revolutionary pamphlets, leaflets and all sorts of "appeals to the masses" to rise against the existing order of things.

The work of distributing was carried on so mysteriously by night that for a long time it seemed impossible to trace the authors. Every quarter of the city was scoured by the most expert detectives until at length the headquarters of the revolutionary gang was discovered in Siebenbrunnengasse, a poor street in the Margarethen district of the capital. The house forming the anarchist headquarters was No. 65. No time was lost in planning a "raid." The two men, whose arrest was in the first instance contemplated, were Franz Haspel and Stefan Hahnel, both journeymen cabinet makers.

Early Friday morning, September 22, a small body of detectives posted themselves opposite No. 65. They had ascertained that one of the two men so urgently "wanted"—Hahnel—had to begin his work in the factory where he was employed at 6 o'clock. In due course Hahnel appeared and before he had proceeded a dozen yards up the street he was a prisoner. The arrest was made without the slightest fuss, he being taken off his guard. His pockets being searched he was marched off to the lockup.

Upon the person of the prisoner the detectives found a latch key of the dwelling which Hahnel shared with his still uncaptured fellow conspirator.

Back went the detectives to No. 65. Mounting rapidly to the third floor the police commissary, who was in command, placed the latch key in the lock and the door swung open. The dwelling, which the police had thus successfully invaded, consisted of a room and kitchen. A thorough search of the house was then begun. The furniture of the sitting room consisted of an oblong couch covered with black American leather, a small brown painted table,a painted night stool, a trunk, a wardrobe and two or three chairs. A close inspection of these articles of furniture yielded startling results.

While two of the detectives guarded the prisoner the others examined the couch. A close inspection revealed the existence of a sceret lock. This was broken with difficulty and the interior of the couch was seen to be a costly hand printing press with all the latest improvements.

Inside one of the cylinders of the printing press they came across large bundles of the anarchical "Appeal to the Austrian Masses," which was one of the seditious pamphlets that had put them on the track of the conspirators.

In the little brown painted table which stood against the wall the detectives discovered a complete set of type, arrayed in the most compact and scientific manner.

Examination of the night stool revealed the existence of a secret compartment full of revolutionary pamphlets and leaflets exactly corresponding with those that had in the first instance excited the suspicion of the authorities.

The large trunk was next examined. It contained surprises which threw those of the couch and the table in the shade. The detectives, when they forced the lock, found inside a perfect arsenal of explosive bombs already to be charged, some in glass and some in metal, and in addition, metal cases, tubes, wires, clockworks and implements of various kinds for fiiting these together. Necessary explosives for charging these infernal machines were also discovered.

There were also discovered in the course of the investigation, revolvers, with a supply of ammunition to fit them, and a large amount of stationery for printing and correspondence purposes.

Finally, in a wardrobe, the police found one or more coats with swivels or hooks attached to the lining for the purpose of carrying bombs. While the search was in progress a determined attempt at suicide was made by the prisoner Haspel, who had been found in the rooms. When he saw that all was discovered he thrust aside the detectives and endeavored to throw himself out of the window. He was intercepted in time, however, and promptly secured.

On the evening of the same day that these important arrests were effected, eight of the anarchists were taken into custody, and in the course of the following day four more were arrested The evidence against two of these, however, was subsequently found to be insufficient and they were accordingly released.

* * *

The dance known as "polka" originated in Bohemia and not in Poland or Hungary as many erroneously suppose. The inventor of it was Hannah Slezák from Kostelec, Bohemia. In 1830, Hannah Slezák, who was famed in that neighberhood as a graceful dancer, attended a ball in her native town. Entering the hall where the dance was held she was requested by her companions to dance some "solo dance." Hannah was willing and said: "I will dance something that I have invented myself." Then, singing to herself, by way of accompaniment, she commenced dancing an entirely new dance. A local schoolmaster assisted the dancer with a violin. On being asked what dance it was, Hannah answered that it was "Půlka" (half), because it required a half-step. From "Půlka," the dance became afterwards known as "polka." In 1833 polka was danced for the first time in Prague, in 1839 in Vienna and in 1840 it created a veritable sensation in Paris. In time polka gained a world-wide reputation. Hannah Slezák, its inventor lives to this day in Kostelec, her native town. Six children and a number of grandchildren take care of the old lady, who has given to the world one of the most popular of dances.

Correspondence.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Editor of the BOHEMIAN VOICE:—Does it not seem almost beyond belief to us, living in America, to read, that now, near the close of the nineteenth century, governments so little understand the times we are living in, as to think that they can still pursue the system of coercion of fifty years ago? Poor Bohemians! How they are groaning under a merciless yoke of oppression from which there seems to be no relief, unless to use the language of a correspondent, "flee from Bohemia." Unhappy country! Your speakers are choked, your editors imprisoned, a little handful fighting for liberty of speech, "God's most precious gift to man," liberty of the press, the greatest power of the world. Is the rest of the world blind and deaf, that it can look with indifference on the persecution of this once mighty and glorious nation? Oh! shades of Hus, Žižka, Jerome of Prague, Havlíček, Jungman, Palacký and the long list of Bohemia's great men, leaders in reform, was it for this that you had lived, suffered and worked? Was it for this, noble martyrs, that you died? You gave your lives for the truth, believing that only through the knowledge of truth, men can become free.

Our thoughtful men knew long before the war, that it must come, that blood alone could wash that hideous spot away. So the fearful revolutions of history, when men rise up against their oppressors, must come, if monarchs

are not wise in time and will not grant their people their liberties. Let us, who enjoy "liberty," here in America, start a "home rule fund" and help the champions of liberty of speech, liberty of the press, liberty of conscience in Bohemia. Bohemia, long suffering, has had many dark hours, and once more a heavy pall hangs like a cloud over her. Our noble forefathers, the champions of liberty in America, too, had their dark hours; that winter at Valley Forge, when the men marked the snow with blood which flowed from their shoeless feet, was a dark hour, but their indomitable will upheld them, because they were fighting for a righteous cause. Just so is the fight of the Bohemians—a just and righteous cause—and now once more they have a dark hour. But their forefathers showed just as indomitable a will as did the Americans, and let us hope that they have bequeathed that strong will to their descendants, a precious heritage. Future generations will live to thank them and honor their memory, as champions of the rights of man.

Some writers have drawn a parallel between the struggles of Ireland and Bohemia because both people are fighting for home rule, but to one who knows the Bohemians and their history all similarity ceases with that one question. While the Irish people have always been the most obedient children of Rome, the first seeds of the reformed religion found fruitful soil in Bohemia, and religious questions and politics are so intimately interwoven in Bohemian history that it is impossible to separate them. Immense sums of money have been sent to Ireland for its relief, but what has ever been done by the world to aid the poor Bohemians in their long, wearisome struggle for existence?

Let monarchs beware, long and patiently the people suffer, but, once the cup runneth over, and what frightful examples does not history give us of their fury when once they burst their shackles? The fearful consequences of oppression are as inevitable as death.

ADELMA ALIS.

Letter Box.

Mr. Chicago. The Unitas Fratrum or the Moravian Church, as it is commonly called, was founded in Bohemia, in the year 1457, by followers of John Hus, the Bohemian reformer and martyr. "It soon spread to Moravia," says de Schweinitz, "and subsequently to Poland. In spite of frequent and severe persecutions, it flourished in Bohemia and Moravia for a century and three quarters, and was then forcibly over-thrown by Ferdinand II., in the so-called Bohemian counter-reformation, at the beginning of the Thirty Year's War. About the same time, the Polish branch amalgamated with the reformed church of that country. A large part of the Bohemian and Moravian membership, however, found refuge in Poland, Hungary and some other lands, and maintained the existence of their church until 1656, when Lissa, in Poland, the seat of their ecclesiastical government was destroyed in a war with Sweden. After this the colony of the Brethren which had been living there scattered and their other parishes were gradually lost among the Lutherans and the reformed. Their episcopate, however, was carefully preserved, in the event of the resuscitation of their church, and a "hidden seed" remained in Bohemia and Moravia, secretly cherishing the faith and traditions of their fathers. In 1722, a number of these descendants of the Brethren, together with others awakened compatriots, emigrated to an estate belonging to the Young Count Zinzendorf, in Upper Lusatia, and there founded Herrnhut (Ochranov), which in time grew to be a flourishing town. Here the Unitas Fratrum sprang into new life. The renewal was formally completed through the consecration of David Nitschmann to the episcopate, by Bishop Daniel Ernst Jablonský at Berlin, on March 13, 1735, with the concurrence of Bishop Christian Sitkovius. The former was a grandson of John Amos Comenius, and court preacher at Berlin; the latter stood at the head of certain reformed congregations in Poland, with which the former Moravians in that country had united. The headquarters of the Moravian Church in this country are in Bethlehem, Pa.

Bohemian-American newspapers announce that an association, known as "Bohemian League of America," and resembling in object to the Irish league, has been permanently organized in Chicago. The officers of the league are: F. Kašpar, president; F. Dymáček, vice-president; A. Heller, secretary; B. V. Nejedlý, financial secretary; Vladimír Červený, treasurer; Jos. L. Voborský, corresponding secretary. Messrs. E. Bachman, V. Čermák, J. Šimonek, N. Tomek, K. Štulík, J. Hanuš, T. Špatný, A. Velebil and F. Hájek constitute the local board of managers. In appealing for aid to the Bohemian citizens of the United States, Mr. J. L. Voborský, the corresponding secretary of the league makes some interesting statements. "There are in the United States," says he, "several hundred societies (Boehmian) and if only 100,000 of their members joined the league, the sum of $20,000 could be raised annually, outside of contributions by individuals." Then again: "In addition to the Č. S. P. S. organization and the Sokols we have the Č. S. B. P. J. Knights and Ladies of Honor, the Citizens' Order, Taborites an[illegible] Societies. Considering all this, I think, that the membership could reach over 100,000. Thus far the Catholic societies have kept aloof from the league but I hope that on a national issue like this they will work hand in hand with us. We are all Bohemians, reared in the old country and we should not allow religious differences to interfere with our patriotism, which, I believe, should be held up above everything else. I am convinced that our fellow-citizens, the Catholics, feel as warmly for the national Bohemian cause as we, and I am sure they will lend us a helping hand and assist us in our noble undertaking." "Thus far," proceeds the secretary, "60 societies and 40 individuals have signified their intention to join the "Bohemian League of America" and exclusive of the regular dues of members, $117.39 has been collected in voluntary subscriptions."

Mr. August Geringer, 150 West 12th Str., Chicago, Ill. has published "Bohemian national songs and dances" for the piano. There are two sheets at 50 cents each. Prof. John Koula is the editor.

With this issue Mr. Thomas Čapek severs his connection with THE BOHEMIAN VOICE.